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END OF THE SANDERS CASE.

The statement of W. A. Sanders that

he will make no further effort to avoid

the penalty which the law has meted

out to him, will be received with gen-

eral satisfaction. If there were any

probability that he would be able to

break the net of evidence which circum-

stances have woven about him, a differ-

ent feeling would prevail. But such

hope cannot be reasonably entertained.

Four trials of the case have afforded

abundant opportunity to secure and pre-

sent all the evidence obtainable, and a

second jury has decided that a reason-

able doubt of guilt was not created by

the testimony for the defendant. The

trial of these cases has already cost a

large amount, and while the cost need

not be taken into consideration if the

ends of justice remain unobserved, it is

not unreasonable to take it into con-

sideration under existing conditions.

Viewed in any light the case is a most

remarkable one. Through it all runs a

vein of mystery so dark, so machinel-

ian in its character that it almost

baffles reason. It hardly has a parallel

in criminal history, and fiction furnishes

few mysteries that equal it. For with

this conviction of forgery is inseparably

linked the disappearance of William

Woodson and that long and far-reach-

ing chain of circumstances which en-

folds a plot so strange, so unreasoning

that it inevitably raises a doubt that

the brain of any sane man could have

conceived it, much less dictate the attempt

to carry it out.

And without this case is more than an

ordinarily sad one. It fastens upon a

man of more than average ability and

learning in some of the higher fields of

human endeavor—a man who had

passed life's meridian and was rearing a

family in a community where he had

long been a respected citizen—a crime

than which there could be none blacker.

But W. A. Sanders has had every op-

portunity which the law provides to

prove his innocence of the terrible

charge laid at his door, and the verdict

of the jury to which the evidence was

submitted is that he failed. The law is

supreme and must take its course.

WHAT CONGRESS HAS DONE.

The index to the Congressional Record

from March 15th to March 27th, inclu-

sive, is a formidable document. Al-

though it indexes the operations of but

twelve working days, there are 120

pages of it. This indicates on the face

of it that the honorable senators and

representatives must have been quite

busy during that time, and a closer in-

spection of the index demonstrates that

the indication is not misleading. In

these twelve days 2394 bills and 41 joint

resolutions were introduced in the house

of representatives, and 1329 bills and 21

joint resolutions were offered in the sen-

ate. The grand total of bills and joint

resolutions introduced in both houses

was 3723, or an average of 310 per day.

So it will be recognized that the people's

servants in the national legislature have

not been slothful in business.

But, after all, it is the quality rather

than the quantity of work that counts

in such a case. And when the quality

is inspected the conclusion is not so

satisfactory. A large part of all these

bills are for the relief of somebody or

other resident in some place or other.

Closely following this class in point

of number are those "granting an increase

of pension" to somebody or other whose

supply of milk from the public under is

supposed to be deficient. When the

total of these two classes of bills is

taken, not very much is left. Inspect-

ing this index, one might almost sup-

pose that the American congress is

some sort of a charitable enterprise on a

large scale.

Senator Cockrell of Missouri has

surpassed any other honorable

member in the energy of his bill-intro-

ducing labors, and a summary of his

work will give a fair idea of the char-

acter of all of the bills introduced in the

legislative field. He introduced 123

bills and joint resolutions, or an average

of more than ten a day. Of this num-

ber 54 were private pension bills and 69

were "bills" for relief. That is to say,

about seven-eighths of Senator Cock-

rell's labors dealt with congress as an

elementary institution. And, as has

been said, his labors were fairly typical

of those of the rest of the lawmakers.

The Republican believes that there is

a class of men who should be pensioned

and it recognizes that relief sometimes

is just, but it also believes that both the

pension and relief business is being out-

rageously overdone. A large proportion

of such bills should be introduced in the

encouragement of an spirit of depend-

ence in the American people, for that

is their direct effect. Perhaps there is not

a person who reads this article who does

not know some man who is drawing a

pension and who needs it just as much

as any other healthy man, and not one

iota more. The tendency is too much

in the direction of making of us a na-

tion of almshouses, and every step in that

direction is a step away from self-re-

liance. There is a class of people—and

it is not a small one—whose mouths are

forever open for public aid, and far

too many of their mouths are not

upward in vain.

The men who risked their lives for

their country and who lost their health

in doing so, should, if they are poor, be

pensioned. So should be the widows of

those who thus gave their lives. But

right there the pensioning should stop;

a law should be put up against their el-

ders and their claims and their heirs.

There has been much talk of the ex-

travagance of recent congresses, and

the talk was more than justified. In

an slight degree this extravagance has

been due to the fact that congress has

been largely uncontrolled by a sort of

uninformed institution. But the

result is not only bad in its enormous

cost; it is still worse in the beggarly

spirit it gradually creates in so many

people.

Congress need not be proud of this

two weeks' work. When about seven-

eighths of the bills introduced in that

honorable body are of a charitable

nature, one of two things should hap-

pen: Either, if the bills are necessary,

the general poverty thus indicated should

be treated by general laws, or, if they

are not necessary, the honorable

body should find something more bene-

ficial to do.

JAMES CARROLL COOK, who has pre-

sided over department 2 of the superior

court during the late trial of the Sanders

forgery case, has made a very favorable

impression upon all who have observed

his methods upon the bench. He un-

failingly maintains the dignity of the

court, but does so with courtesy and

deference. Judge Cook has made many

friends during his stay in Fresno.

No one knows are heard to the propo-

sition to sprinkle the cemetery road. It

may therefore be taken for granted that

the sentiment in its favor is unanimous.

REDEEDY now talks of celebrating the

completion of the Valley road. It will

be a long time before it will have a

more important event to celebrate.

In the rest of those sprinkling wagons

will now come out of hiding and begin

operation, no questions will be asked.

RANDOM REMARKS.

Rev. C. O. Brown, he of the amorous

dalliance in San Francisco, has been

called to the pastorate of a Congrega-

tional church in Chicago. The Chicago

lock has an unquestionable right to

choose such manner of shepherd as

pieces it, but after this shepherd is in

his place it will do no harm to put a

barbed-wire corral around the ewe

lambs of the fold.

Here is no less reputable a publica-

tion than the *San Francisco Journal* as-

serting that "extreme plumage would

be avoided if the rocking chair were

siren up." This is "rot." Obesity is

a condition which comes to some people

regardless of anything they may do,

while nothing could bring it to other

people. Fueling will not drive it from

some; gluttony will not summon it to

others. Rocking-chairs have as much

to do with the condition as tin whistles

might have, and no more.

Down in Bakerfield a 9-year-old boy

has been arrested, jailed and finally

bonded in the amount of \$500 for trial

on a charge of burglary. The question

naturally arises: How long has it been

since the Bakerfield courts of justice

were converted into kindergarten? In

heaven's name, why not spank this lit-

tiant and send him to bed? The terror

of the law become a sort of farce—

tragedy when they are applied to such

as he. What can that have resulted of

the meaning of burglary and the duty

that the individual owes to society?

Practically nothing. I remember steal-

ing a ring when I was not far from 9

years old. I am a tolerably useful mem-

ber of society now, I hope, but I don't

know whether I would have been had I

then been arrested, jailed and had it

ground into my baby soul that I was

forever disgraced. Jails are not elevat-

ing, if they are useful, and I believe

that they can be nothing but harmful

to boys who have not got out of skirts.

Spank your wretched offender, good people

of Bakerfield, and let him go. If it

were a murder, now, the case would be

different.

LOVE OF MY SOUL.

"Love of my soul," she used to say,

"There is only one the name of love."

And the way leads down to the ocean of death.

When she said that, she never a breath

said that she was in love. She said, "I

love the life of the world, the life of the

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## FRESNO'S LATEST SENSATION

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